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28 September 2020

Dear John Luke

**Re: Official Information Act Request – Low Emission Vehicles Contestable Fund**

Thank you for your email of 31 August 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. The names and bios of the Low Emission Vehicles Contestable Fund (the Contestable Fund) independent assessment panel members*
- 2. Members' pay rate, Terms of Reference and term of appointment*
- 3. How the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) called for public expression of interest in these positions.*

With regards to the first point of your request, please find the names and bios of Contestable Fund independent assessment panel members that participated in the Round 8 evaluation process (announced August 2020) in Appendix One.

In accordance with the Fees Framework for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest<sup>1</sup>, the panel chair is entitled to claim \$1,000 per day (ex GST) for their work as the chair of the panel. Panel members are entitled to claim \$600 per day (ex GST) for their work on the panel. This includes preparing for, traveling to, and attending meetings.

Travel and accommodation arrangements are organised and paid by EECA wherever practicable. Reasonable disbursements associated with attendance at meetings will be reimbursed by EECA, on submission of receipts. If travel, accommodation and meals cannot be organised by EECA, then actual and reasonable costs will be reimbursed.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/Legacy/resources/CO-19-1-Fees-Framework-for-members-appointed-to-bodies-in-which-the-Crown-has-an-interest.pdf>

Attached also are the Terms of Reference for panel members of the Contestable Fund. The terms of appointment are set out in this document.

Coming to your third point around selection process, we have both identified people who we believe have the appropriate background and experience to contribute at the required level and sought recommendations from agencies, such as the Ministry of Transport and NZ Transport Agency.

As specified in the Terms of Reference, panel members are appointed based on the recommendation of the Chief Executive of EECA (after consultation with the panel Chair). Members comprise a mix of expertise, including project evaluation, equity investment, business strategy, machinery of government, marketing, electric vehicle and technology and other commercial and innovation experience – at least three members should come from the private sector.

While there have been movements on and off the panel over the years, for the last few rounds we have had panel membership consistency. We have found this consistency to be invaluable for comparing various applications across rounds as well as resubmissions. It helps ensure value for money and that each round's recommendations are aligned with previous recommendations.

You have the right under section 28 of the Official Information Act to seek a review by the Ombudsman of the response I have provided to your request.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Caseley  
**Chief Executive**

## Appendix One: Independent assessment panel member bios

### **Elena Trout (Chair)**

Elena has been an EECA Board member since 2013 and was appointed Chair in 2019. She has a Masters of Civil Engineering and is a fellow of Engineering NZ. She has held executive roles in the transport, infrastructure and energy sectors and has managed the planning and delivery of large infrastructure services.

Elena is an independent director of several boards and often undertakes independent assessments of organisations' infrastructure programmes. Elena is a Fellow of the Institute of Directors.

### **John Hancock**

John Hancock is a well-known energy utilities consultant and commentator. He chairs the Electricity Authority's Innovation & Participation Advisory Group, and was a member of the Expert Advisory Group for the Government's Electricity Price Review.

Much of his work draws on his unusual combination of deep experience in both technology and deregulation - key dimensions of the strategic environment in the sector.

John has worked in the utilities industry around the world for over 30 years.

### **Ken Shirley**

Ken Shirley was formerly a Minister of the Crown and chief executive officer of the Road Transport Forum.

Ken also served as a Director of industry training association MITO for six years.

### **Elizabeth Halsted**

Liz Halsted is Energy and Advisory Services Leader at Arup and a New Zealand Hydrogen Association Board member.

Liz has worked in New Zealand, Australia and the UK in energy, integrated transport, emerging technologies, sustainability and demand management over the last 18 years.

### **Roger Sutton**

Roger is the Chief Executive Officer of EA Networks. Prior to this he was Chief Executive of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority and immediately prior to that led the Christchurch-based electricity lines company Orion.